

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1039

By Turner L

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is proud to salute those exemplary events that bring great honor and acclaim to Tennessee and serve to enrich the cultural fabric of this great State; and

WHEREAS, the Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival is one such estimable event, and is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, from April 20-23, 2006, the people of Memphis will congregate at Robert R. Church Park on world famous Beale Street to celebrate this laudable event, which was first held in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival strives to highlight the diversity of African-American people in the Shelby County community, including their cultures, history, and creative and intellectual endeavors; and

WHEREAS, although Africa in April is celebrated each April, the organization works year round to make Shelby County a better place to live, utilizing programs involving cultural, historical, self-esteem, anti-crime, and anti-drug issues as well as pursuing after-school education and scholastic achievement for inner-city youths; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Republic of Sierra Leone will be showcased from an international perspective using a multiplicity of mediums: education, economics, culture, fashions, arts and crafts, music, history, and the culinary arts; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the City of Memphis, Shelby County, parochial schools, area colleges and universities, and community organizations and institutions will participate and enjoy a diverse cultural marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Africa in April will provide four days of fun, festivities, and food with a different theme each day: Thursday, April 20, is International Entrepreneur's Day, featuring an African International Business and Economic Trade Luncheon; on Friday, April 21, the International Diversity Parade is scheduled; Saturday, April 22, has been designated as Family Health/Wellness Community Day, featuring a Blues Showcase; and Sunday, April 23, will be known as International African-American Music Day; and

WHEREAS, Africa in April enriches the lives of everyone in the community by providing an avenue for community leaders and organizations, government officials, students, the elderly, businesses, and religious organizations to learn more about the accomplishments of African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty years, Africa in April has inspired, entertained, and educated thousands, and as the finest cultural awareness festival in Shelby County should be properly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival, welcome the distinguished representatives and participants who will honor the diversity of African-American people in the community of Shelby County, and commend and thank the organizers of this wonderful event for their contribution to expanding the cultural horizon of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.